



# Montgomery County Council

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**For Immediate Release**

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**March 27, 2001**

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## **Statement by Council President Blair Ewing On Introduction of Revenue Measures in Council**

"In order to comply with our public hearings schedule, we are required to introduce any revenue measures by today, March 27, if they are to be part of the operating budget for Fiscal Year 2000.

"I do not know if there is a majority on the Council for any particular revenue measure. What I do know is that we received critical details of the County Executive's recommended budget only at the end of the day last Friday. In a \$2.7 billion budget, the devil is in the details and we need more time to take a long hard look at the proposed expenditures and cuts so that we might consider where further savings may be possible or where increases may be needed.

"We need the flexibility to look at the big picture and the introduction of these measures at least provides the Council with further options, should we choose to exercise them."

"Our revenues are up this year, if at a slower pace, but our County's critical needs have also increased. More students need more classrooms and more resources to light the lamp of learning. We need to do our share to alleviate traffic congestion. We need to support our police and fire and rescue. And we need to protect the most vulnerable among us.

"None of us likes paying taxes. And I hope we can find efficiencies in this budget. But we may need other options if we feel that there are critical needs that are as yet unmet in the County Executive's recommended budget. We can't know that yet. That's why we are putting these proposals on the table."

--Council President Blair Ewing

